

SC-IV-M/50

ICIS SUBCOMMITTEE ON PROTECTION OF CLASSIFIED GOVERNMENT DATA


MINUTES OF MEETING

OCTOBER 17, 1951

The ICIS Subcommittee on Protection of Classified Government Data met on Wednesday, October 17, 1951, at 2:00 p.m., in Room 5218, Department of Justice. The following members were present:

Department of Justice:	Mr. T. Oscar Smith, Alternate Acting Chairman
Department of Defense:	Col. Sidney B. Rubenstein
Department of State:	Mr. Charles Dulin, Alternate
Department of Commerce:	Mr. Norman E. Towson
Bureau of the Budget Observer:	Mr. James L. Grahle

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CIA Ad Hoc Representative:	
AEC Ad Hoc Representative:	Mr. William Riley
Treasury Ad Hoc Representative:	Mr. William W. Harrison
Secretary, ICIS:	Mr. Leonard P. Bienvenu Miss Helen H. McRae

STATINTL

1. Implementation of Executive Order 10290
Minimum Standards on Handling and Transmission
of Classified Data

The Subcommittee continued its consideration of steps which ICIS might take in implementation of the President's directive to ICIS in regard to the Executive Order.

The State Representative was of the opinion that the problem consists of two parts, the first of which requires that the ICIS determine some means to furnish advice and guidance to all the agencies. This is an immediate problem which must be resolved as soon as possible and prior to the effective date of the Executive Order on October 26, 1951.

The second part of the problem relates to the "policing" or review of the administration of the Executive Order. The State Representative believes this part will require a great deal of careful consideration. He also was of the opinion that if the first part of the problem can be accomplished before the effective date of the order the subcommittee can then afford to take the time necessary to give adequate consideration to the second part. He suggested that the ICIS hire a full time security officer or consultant to whom all agencies could bring their problems.

The Secretary pointed out to the subcommittee that the ICIS is sponsoring a joint meeting of information and security officers of all agencies of the Government on October 26, 1951, and that it would be helpful if the meeting could be informed of definite proposals. The subcommittee decided that the ICIS should receive any recommendation as soon as agreement is reached thereon. In view of the ICIS meeting for the next day, the subcommittee instructed the Secretary to inform the ICIS of the following preliminary recommendations which it has agreed to make in regard to the first part of the problem as outlined above:

1. ICIS should have full time assistance in order to provide the advice and assistance to the various agencies as called for in the President's directive;
2. This assistance to ICIS should be provided in the form of a security advisory committee with a full time executive secretary. The committee will be composed of not less than five members and will function on a part time basis.

The subcommittee discussed whether or not it should function as the security advisory committee but was of the opinion that a new committee should be established for the following reasons: (1) The subcommittee will have additional problems referred to it by ICIS and it may not be able to devote sufficient time to these new problems as well as act as the advisory committee; and (2) non-government people, especially the press, would probably not be satisfied with a decision that an ICIS subcommittee, which was set up for the specific purpose of protecting classified data, be charged with the responsibility of furnishing advice and assistance.

The Bureau of the Budget Representative brought up the question of a central place for the press to go to present complaints or inquiries concerning either general or particular matters.

In regard to the committee's decision to have a security advisory committee with a full time executive secretary, the Department of Commerce Representative voted in the negative.

The subcommittee held a lengthy discussion concerning the composition of the security advisory committee but were not able to reach an agreement. It was therefore agreed that the members would take this question back to their respective agencies and would meet again on October 22, 1951, at which time it hopes to reach agreement in regard to the exact composition of the committee.

It was agreed that the subcommittee would meet on Monday, October 22, 1951, at 2:00 p.m., for a further discussion of the list of suggestions dated October 10, 1951, furnished by ICIS and other matters noted above.